

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A light-sensitive color photographic element for recording an image comprising a support and, coated on the support, a plurality of hydrophilic-colloid layers comprising radiation-sensitive silver-halide emulsions and forming recording layer units for separately recording blue, green, and red exposures, wherein at least one image recording layer in the recording layer units comprises an infrared dye-forming coupler.

2. The photographic element of claim 1 wherein the element comprises a blue light-sensitive layer unit having a magenta dye forming coupler, a green light-sensitive layer having a cyan dye forming coupler, and a red light-sensitive layer having the infrared dye forming coupler.

3. The photographic element of claim 1 wherein the at least one image recording layer comprises a developing agent or precursor thereof in reactive association with the infrared dye-forming coupler that together forms a dye having an absorption in the infrared region.

4. The photographic element of claim 1 wherein the element is a photothermographic film.

5. The photographic element of claim 3, wherein the element comprises magenta, cyan and infrared dye-forming couplers with a conventional developing agent.

6. The photographic element of claim 5, wherein the conventional developing agent is a paraphenylene compound selected from the group consisting of 4-N, N-dialkylaminoanilines and 2-alkyl-4-N,N-dialkylaminoanilines.

7. The photographic element of claim 4, wherein the photothermographic element comprises at least one blue light-sensitive layer comprising a magenta dye-forming coupler, at least one green light-sensitive

20250207 10:00:00

layer having a cyan dye-forming coupler, and at least one red light-sensitive layer having the infrared dye-forming coupler.

8. A light-sensitive color photographic element comprising a support and, coated on the support, a plurality of hydrophilic colloid layers comprising radiation-sensitive silver-halide emulsion forming recording layer units for separately recording blue, green, and red exposures, wherein the element comprises yellow, magenta and cyan dye-forming couplers and a hue-shifting developing agent or precursor thereof.

9. The photographic element of claim 8, wherein the hue-shifting developing agent is of the paraphenylene diamine type.

10. The photographic element of claim 9, wherein the hue-shifting developing agent is a 2,5-dialkyl-4-N, N-dialkylaminoaniline.

11. The photographic element of claim 1 comprising a cyan dye-forming coupler, a near-infrared dye-forming coupler, and a far-infrared dye forming coupler.

12. The photographic element of claim 1, wherein the element comprises magenta, cyan and infrared dye-forming couplers in combination with a hue-shifting paraphenylene diamine developer or precursor thereof.

13. The photographic element of claim 1 in which the total amount of color masking coupler is not more than  $0.2 \text{ mmol/m}^2$ .

14. The photographic element of claim 1 in which the total amount of permanent Dmin adjusting dyes is not more than  $0.2 \text{ mmol/m}^2$ .

15. The photographic element of claim 1 in which the permanent antihalation density is not more than 0.3 in the blue, green and red density.

16. A method of scanning a photographic element in which substantially all the silver halide has not been removed, which method comprises scanning an image formed in an imagewise exposed and color developed light-sensitive color photographic element wherein at least one image record employs an infrared dye for image formation.

17. A method of processing an imagewise exposed photothermographic element comprising thermally developing the imagewise exposed element to form an image and then scanning the element to form an electronic image representation of the developed image in the element, wherein said scanning occurs before removing any silver halide from the film and wherein at least one image record of the imagewise exposed photothermographic element comprises an infrared dye for contributing to the image formation.

18. The method according to claim 16 further comprising digitizing an electronic image representation formed from the imagewise exposed, developed, and scanned photographic element to form a digital image.

19. The method according to claim 16 comprising the step of modifying a first electronic image representation formed from the imagewise exposed, developed, and scanned photographic element to form a second electronic image representation.

20. The method according to claim 16 comprising storing, transmitting, printing, or displaying an electronic image representation of an image derived from the imagewise exposed, developed, and scanned photographic element.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein said electronic image representation is a digital image.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein printing the image is accomplished by a printing technology selected from the group consisting of electrophotography; inkjet; thermal dye sublimation; and CRT or LED printing to sensitized photographic paper.

23. The method according to claim 17 wherein the photothermographic element contains an imaging layer comprising a blocked developer, a light-sensitive silver halide emulsion, an image dye-forming coupler and a non-light sensitive silver salt oxidizing agent.

24. The method according to claim 17 wherein the developing is accomplished in a dry state without the application of aqueous solutions.

25. The method according to claim 17 wherein the total amount of color masking coupler, the total amount of permanent Dmin adjusting dyes, and the permanent antihalation density, in blue, green and red density, is controlled so that the overall Dmin of the film minimizes the overall scanning noise during scanning.

26. A method of processing an imagewise exposed photographic element comprising developing the imagewise exposed element to form an image and then scanning the element to form an electronic image representation of the developed image in the element, wherein said scanning occurs after partial desilvering of said element and wherein at least one image record of the imagewise exposed photographic element comprises an infrared dye for contributing to the image formation.